



## 11th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

# Joseph J. Czarnezki

*Proudly representing neighborhoods in Milwaukee, Franklin and Greenfield*

**Dear Neighbor,**

**Winter 2020**

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well. I am honored to represent the people of Milwaukee, Greenfield and Franklin as your Milwaukee County Supervisor for the 11th District.

In April, when you elected me to serve as your representative on the Milwaukee County Board, I didn't imagine that my first months in office would focus on dealing with a global pandemic. The County Board and its Committees have been meeting virtually, and we've continued to address your concerns and enact important legislation.

After taking my oath of office in the Courthouse parking lot, in order to maintain social distancing, I was appointed to serve as Chairman of the County Board Intergovernmental Relations Committee. This Committee reviews federal, state, and local legislation that may impact the County, and provides policy recommendations on these matters. We also advance legislation that advocates for the County's interests at other levels of government. For example, the County Board adopted and the County Executive signed a resolution, which I authored, calling on Congress to appropriate federal aid to state, county, and municipal governments to offset the cost of responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Enacting a County budget for 2021 was challenging. Serving on the Finance Committee, I was able to closely scrutinize the budget. Despite many challenges, the Finance Committee delivered a budget that focuses on preserving core services, emphasizes the health and well-being of County residents, preserves our parks, maintains bus service and holds the line on property taxes. I have included some of the budget highlights in this newsletter.

Please continue to contact me with your concerns, questions, or suggestions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

**Joseph J. Czarnezki**  
County Supervisor – 11th District

### Committee Assignments

Intergovernmental Relations  
Committee, Chair

Finance Committee

Transportation, Public Works, and  
Transit Committee

### Address

Milwaukee County Courthouse  
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

### Phone

(414) 278-4253

### Email

Joseph.Czarnezki@  
MilwaukeeCountyWI.gov

### Website

[county.milwaukee.gov/Czarnezki](http://county.milwaukee.gov/Czarnezki)



### Curbside Swearing In at the Courthouse Parking Lot



*Due to the unique circumstances this year, I was sworn in by County Clerk George Christenson in the parking lot of the courthouse.*

## Highlights from the 2021 County Budget

The 2021 Adopted Budget makes great progress towards improving the quality of life for everyone in Milwaukee County by investing in our parks, libraries, transit and in services for veterans and senior citizens, while holding the line on property taxes.

### Property Taxes

The budget adopted by the County Board increased the property tax levy by less than 1%. The Board voted to reduce the amount of tax levy proposed by the County Executive by over \$700,000, and this year's increase is lower than the rate of inflation.

### Seniors, Veterans and Libraries

The Aging and Veterans' Services Departments were combined with the Department of Health and Human Needs. This integration will reduce administrative costs, but not reduce services provided to our Vets or seniors. Combining these departments advances the County's "No Wrong Door" policy. "No Wrong Door" means that everyone will be served regardless of how they first contact the County. Next year's budget also allocates funds to provide services to seniors that depend on County senior centers, additional funds to the County Federated Library System to expand digital resources and approximately a quarter million dollars to upgrade 1950s era electrical equipment at the Veterans War Memorial Center.

### Transit

The Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) received \$54 million in federal funds through the CARES Act. This money was used to keep our buses running this year and to close the

Transit budget gap in 2021. No bus routes are cut in the 2021 budget. MCTS is also working to convert Route 76 on 76th Street and Route 51 on Oklahoma Avenue to high frequency routes, with buses arriving every 15 minutes on weekdays.

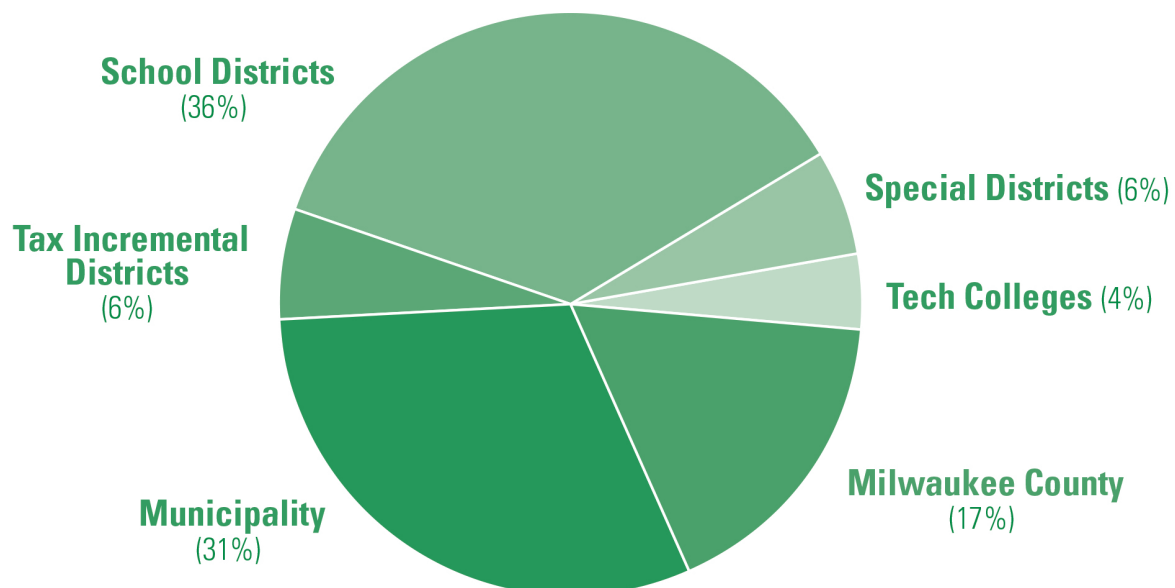
### Parks

Parks are facing revenue shortfalls due to lower attendance caused by the pandemic. The budget adds funds for the Parks Department and the Zoo to avoid potential cuts to services. The Parks Department will also institute a non-resident fee schedule at Cool Waters Aquatic Park, Schulz Aquatic Park, and Pelican Cove. Non-Milwaukee County residents will pay an additional fee to support these water parks which are funded through your tax dollars and fees.

Seasonal funding is provided to allow the Mitchell Park Domes and Boerner Botanical Gardens to operate for all of 2021. Money is also allocated to explore other potential funding avenues for repair and restoration of the Domes, including the use of grant funding, tax credits, and private support. The 2021 budget ensures that the Domes and Botanical Gardens remain open in accordance with COVID-19 public safety restrictions.

Additionally, funds are allocated to supplement seasonal staffing, which may allow for reopening some of the pools that were closed this year. Money is also set aside for urgent maintenance needs and a safety study at McKinley Beach. Summer is still many months away, but I'm happy to announce that funding to keep the wading pool in Wedgewood Park open next summer was secured in the 2021 Budget.

## Distribution of Property Taxes in Milwaukee County



Source: Page 65 of the County Executive's Recommended Operating Budget

## A Fair Deal for Milwaukee County

Every year, the County Executive and Board of Supervisors start their budget planning with an ever-growing structural deficit. Our planning for 2021 started with an estimated \$42.5 million gap in our operating budget, and this gap is projected to grow to \$80 million by 2024. In response, the County must scale back and make cuts while continuing to provide services mandated by the State of Wisconsin.

Our Parks system often faces the harshest cuts, leading to pools closing, the grass in parks growing longer, and an increased reliance on earned revenue. Our Parks rely more upon earned revenue than any other park system in the country. While I love our beer gardens, we shouldn't need to depend on beer and pretzel sales to fund our Parks system.

The average growth of the County's State Shared Revenue is only 1% while our County's expenditures continue to grow on average 2.4% each year. Milwaukee County's ability to generate revenue is limited by state law. Therefore, elected officials, business leaders, and community advocates have come together to develop a set of proposals for a Fair Deal for Milwaukee County, including:

- Allowing Milwaukee County local control to generate new revenue and reduce the reliance on property taxes through a binding referendum process
- Increased contributions from the state toward the provision of current and any new state-mandated services
- Fully reimbursing the County for the cost of patrolling freeways (Milwaukee County is the only Wisconsin county required by state law to patrol freeways).

As Chairman of the County Board Intergovernmental Relations Committee, I'm helping to lead the fight to get our fair share of the tax dollars we send to Madison returned to Milwaukee County.

You can learn more about a Fair Deal for Milwaukee County at [county.milwaukee.gov/FairDeal](https://county.milwaukee.gov/FairDeal).



Get up-to-date information on FREE Milwaukee County Attractions at:



[county.milwaukee.gov/freedays](https://county.milwaukee.gov/freedays)

## New Rhino Exhibit at Zoo Planned

One of the oldest exhibits at the Milwaukee County Zoo is the Rhinoceros exhibit, which was built in the early 1960s. The Zoo and Zoological Society of Milwaukee County are developing a new home for our Rhinos within the Adventure Africa complex. Adventure Africa also includes the newly opened Hippo Haven and expanded Elephant exhibit. The new Rhino exhibit will address the Association of Zoos & Aquariums accreditation standards for maintaining Rhinoceros. The cost of the exhibit will be equally funded by the Zoological Society and the County.



IMPACT 2-1-1 is a central access point for people in need. During times of personal crisis or community disaster, the free, confidential helpline and online resource directory make it easy for residents to get connected to information and assistance. **Simply dial 2-1-1.** If you want detailed information please go to: [www.impactinc.org/impact-2-1-1](https://www.impactinc.org/impact-2-1-1).



## Milwaukee County COVID-19 Response

Milwaukee County is committed to keeping everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Office of Emergency Management is helping lead the fight against the virus and maintaining a dashboard that tracks Key Health and Safety Indicators.

Learn more about the County's response, find helpful resources, check current closures and services changes, and see the dashboard at: [county.milwaukee.gov/COVID-19](https://county.milwaukee.gov/COVID-19).



***"Spread cheer all year. Mask up when you are near."***



Milwaukee County Parks need your help! Our Parks system has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in staff cuts, spending freezes, and revenue losses. Learn about volunteer opportunities, share stories, and donate at [loveyourparksmke.com](https://loveyourparksmke.com).

The 11th Supervisory District is home to the Friends of Grobschmidt and Friends of Wedgewood groups. You can learn more about Friends groups by visiting [parkpeoplemke.org](https://parkpeoplemke.org) or calling (414) 273-7275.

## Resources for Older Adults

The Milwaukee County Department on Aging (MCDA) provides a single point of access to services for Milwaukee County residents age 60 and over. Among the many services are:

- Aging Resource Center
- Senior Centers
- Balanced and nutritious lunches at no charge (contributions accepted) from more than 15 convenient locations. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Senior dining program has been modified. Curbside meals are available at many Senior Dining locations.
- Free transportation for older adults and for any adults affected by COVID-19
- Ongoing assistance for older adults to stay in their homes
- Help with understanding and using insurance and other benefits
- Wellness Programs
- Dementia Care
- Caregiver Support

If MCDA can help you or someone you know, please call (414) 289-6874, or find information online at [county.milwaukee.gov/Aging](https://county.milwaukee.gov/Aging).



# CARES Act

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

## CARES Act Funding

The U.S. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act created the Coronavirus Relief Fund, which provides direct assistance to state and local governments to cover costs incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Milwaukee County received a Coronavirus Relief Fund payment of \$62 million from the federal government and an allocation of \$15 million from the State of Wisconsin's federally funded "Routes to Recovery" program.

These funds are being utilized to reduce the property tax burden by covering the cost of:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and sanitation, and emergency communications related to mitigating the spread of COVID-19
- Grants to small businesses to reimburse costs caused by closures and impacts of COVID-19
- Eviction prevention and mortgage assistance
- Re-opening of the Courts
- Increased death investigations conducted by the Medical Examiner's Office
- Transporting inmates and screening visitors to the jail and courthouse
- Remote work and videoconferencing



The County Legislative Information Center (CLIC) is a comprehensive online tool for keeping up with your County government. On CLIC, you can:

- Livestream Committee and Board meetings, or catch up on them after they've concluded
- View a calendar of all upcoming meetings
- Read County Board resolutions and other legislation
- Comment on pending legislation through our eComment system.

Visit CLIC at [county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC](https://county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC).

## Strategic Planning

It's important that every County department and program is delivering a great return on the investment of our tax dollars and that every available dollar is advancing our County's long-term strategic goal to make Milwaukee County the healthiest county in Wisconsin (we currently rank 71st out of 72 counties).

Milwaukee County operated without a comprehensive strategic plan for many years and some departments focused more on long term planning and goals than others. I believe that strategic plans help improve efficiency and effectively measure results.

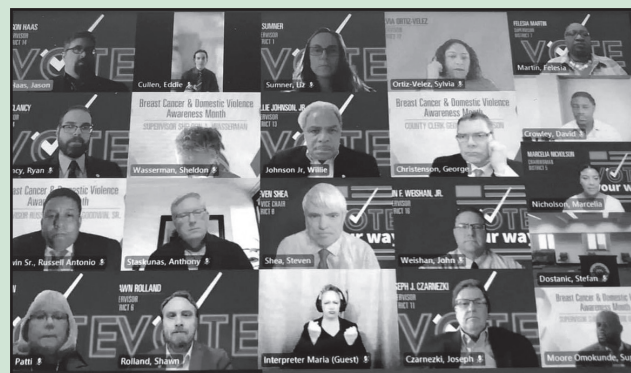
That's why I'm pleased that the County Board unanimously approved a new ordinance, that I authored, which will require each County department's budget request to show taxpayers and stakeholders how departmental strategic plans link with the County's strategic priorities, mission, vision and values.

The new ordinance requires all County departments to develop a strategic plan which includes:

- A mission statement
- Identification of strategic issues
- Measurable goals and objectives
- Strategies, programs and action items to achieve those goals
- An explanation of how the department's strategic plan relates to the overall County strategic plan.

This ordinance, which goes into effect next year, will help the County be a better steward of your tax dollars and make sure every County department is working toward the same goals.

## Virtual Meetings



I authored a new County ordinance that allows the Board and its Committees to meet virtually in emergency circumstances, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. State law mandates that Milwaukee County Supervisors be part time, therefore many have other responsibilities or jobs. This resolution allows Supervisors to join meetings from outside the courthouse if needed.





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# Service Guide for 11th District Milwaukee County Residents

<b>11th District Milwaukee County Supervisor</b> <b>Joseph J. Czarnezki</b> ..... 278-4253		Suicide Prevention/Intervention Mental Health Crisis ..... 257-7222	Grobschmidt Park (3751 W. College Ave.) ..... 281-6289
<b>Airports</b> Mitchell International Airport ..... 747-5300 Timmerman Airport ..... 461-3222		<b>Fraud Hotline</b> ..... 93-FRAUD	Lyons Park (3301 S. 55th St.) ..... 672-5052
<b>Child Support Enforcement</b> ..... 615-2593		<b>House of Correction</b> ..... 427-4700	Maitland Park (6001 S. 13th St.) ..... 281-6289
<b>Clerk of Circuit Court</b> ..... 278-5362		<b>Jury Services</b> General Information ..... 278-4469 Reserve Juror Message ..... 985-6000	Wedgewood Park (7201 W. Wedgewood Dr.) ..... 672-5052
<b>County Clerk</b> ..... 278-4067		<b>Marcus Center for the Performing Arts</b> ..... 273-7121	Zablocki Park (3717 W. Howard Ave.) ..... 281-6289
<b>County Executive</b> ..... 278-4211		<b>Marriage Licenses/Passports/Fishing Lic.</b> ..... 278-4067	<b>Milwaukee County Zoo</b> ..... 771-3040
<b>County Treasurer</b> ..... 278-4033		<b>Medical Examiner</b> ..... 223-1200	<b>Milwaukee County Sports Complex</b> ..... 281-2694
<b>Courts</b> Civil Division (small & large claims) ..... 278-4120 Criminal Division ..... 278-4538 Children's Court ..... 257-7700		<b>Mental Health Complex</b> General Information ..... 257-6995 Admitting (Emergency) ..... 257-7260	<b>Milwaukee Public Museum</b> ..... 278-2702
<b>Department on Aging</b> ..... 289-6874		<b>Milwaukee Art Museum</b> ..... 224-3200	<b>Municipalities</b> Franklin ..... 425-7500 Greenfield ..... 329-5219 Milwaukee ..... 286-CITY (2489)
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b> ... 289-6877		<b>Milwaukee County Historical Society</b> ..... 273-8288	<b>Office of Persons with Disabilities</b> ..... 278-3932
<b>District Attorney's Office</b> ..... 278-4646		<b>Milwaukee County Parks</b> Boerner Botanical Gardens ..... 525-5600 General Information ..... 257-7275 Parks Hotline ..... 257-5100 Golf Office ..... 257-8024	<b>Register in Probate</b> ..... 278-4444
<b>Election Commission</b> ..... 278-4060		<b>District 11 Parks</b> Armour Park (6105 W. Norwich Ave.) ..... 281-6289 Barnard Park (3300 W. Barnard Ave.) ..... 281-6289 Froemming Park (8801 S. 51st St.) ..... 281-2694	<b>Register of Deeds</b> ..... 278-4021
<b>Emergency/Public Safety</b> Sheriff (non-emergency) ..... 278-4766 TDD Emergency ..... 278-5252 Burn Center Hotline (24 hours) ..... 272-2876 Emergency Management (24 hours) ..... 257-4709			<b>Rent Assistance</b> ..... 278-4894
			<b>Transit System</b> Bus Routes/Schedules/Fares ..... 344-6711 Customer Comments ..... 937-3218 Transit Plus ..... 343-1700
			<b>UW-Extension</b> ..... 256-4600
			<b>Veterans Services</b> ..... 266-1234
			<b>Victim/Witness Service</b> ..... 278-4667